

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, JO, RO

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN AND ROMANIAN PRESIDENT

ADDRESS MIDEAST ISSUE

REF: AMMAN 2467

1. SUMMARY: IN REMARKS DELIVERED AT STATE BANQUET FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, KING HUSSEIN TOOK COMPARATIVELY HARD LINE ON ISRAEL, STRESSING NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK, PARTICULARLY FROM JERUSALEM, AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ADVOCATED ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REMARKS DELIVERED AT STATE BANQUET EVENING OF ARRIVAL APRIL 14 (FBIS JN 142359), KING DWELT AT LENGTH ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, NOTING THAT AGGRESSION AGAINST PALESTINIAN
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PEOPLE BEGAN MORE THAN QUARTER CENTURY AGO, DURING

WHICH TIME JORDAN HAS BORNE BRUNT OF AGGRESSION
"PERHAPS UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY". KING SINGLED
OUT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AS CAUSE OF CONTINUED SUFFER-
INGS OF ARABS, PARTICULARLY PALESTINIANS. "FROM THE
BEGINNING, ISRAEL HAS CLOSED ALL ROADS TO ALL JUST
SOLUTIONS..., AND SHE MAY BE PURSUING THIS
COURSE WITH EVEN MORE OBSTINACY AND
DETERMINATION. IF THE ARABS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO
CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT PEACE,
ISRAEL HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DO THIS FOR THEM, AND IN
THE END HAS CONVINCED ALL THE WORLD."

3. KING CALLED FOR REALIZATION OF TWO JUST DEMANDS:
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, "THE
FOREMOST OF WHICH IS JERUSALEM", AND RECOGNITION OF
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. "WITHOUT THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE DEMANDS, WE DO NOT SEE ANY HOPE
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
AND PERHAPS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD."

4. KING ELABORATED ON DIFFICULTY OF POOR COUNTRIES
DEVOTING RESOURCES TO DEVELOPMENT WHEN EVENTS
FORCE THEM TO DIVERT FUNDS TO MAINTAIN LARGE DEFENSE
ESTABLISHMENT, NOTING, HOWEVER, THE HE LOOKING FORWARD
TO SHOWING CEAUSESCU WHAT JORDAN HAS MANAGED TO ACHIEVE.

5. IN RESPONSE (FBIS JN 151045), CEAUSESCU STRESSED
TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND ARAB
STATES AND NOTED THAT BASIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN
WORLD. STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION,
PARTICULARLY AFTER FAILURE OF KISSINGER MISSION, AND
CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST PEACE BASED ON
FINDING SOLUTION THROUGH POLITICAL EFFORTS. SPECIFICALLY,
HE SAID, ROMANIA CONSIDERS GENEVA NECESSARY, AND HE
REFERRED TO "THE NEED TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THIS CON-
FERENCE SO AS TO INCLUDE OTHER STATES...." IN ADDITION,
CEAUSESCU CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL TO 1967 LINES
AND RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS "AS
WELL AS THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL STATE".
JORDAN, HE ADDED, HAS LARGE ROLE TO PLAY, AS DOES UN.
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6. ALMOST ALL JORDANIAN DAILY PAPERS APRIL 15 HEADLINED
KING'S CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION
OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, NOTING REPEATEDLY THAT THESE
ARE "TWO STIPULATIONS FOR PEACE". HOWEVER,
JORDANIAN PRESS ONLY BRIEFLY MENTIONED AND
FAILED TO GIVE ANY PROMINENCE TO CEAUSESCU'S RE-
MARKS SUPPORTING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO ESTABLISH

A STATE.

7. COMMENT: WE WERE STRUCK BY RELATIVELY
HARSH TONE OF KING'S REMARKS REGARDING ISRAEL IN
COMPARISON WITH HIS NORMAL RHETORIC. THIS HARDENED
LINE HOWEVER CONTINUES THE TREND IN KING'S PUBLIC APPROACH
STARTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SUSPENSION OF KISSINGER MISSION.
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